IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1.

Kindly cancel claims 16-31 without prejudice or disclaimer.

- (Currently Amended) A Method method of extracting a volatile natural substance from a biological material, wherein the biological material contains water, comprising the following steps:
- a) introducing the biological material into a microwave chamber with the exclusion of solvent;
- b) <u>maintaining a normal pressure in the microwave chamber</u> and irradiating the biological material with microwaves until at least some of the natural substance is released from the biological material;
- c) conveying the released natural substance from the microwave chamber into a condensation chamber by convection;
 - d) cooling the released natural substance until it condenses; and
 - e) conveying the released natural substance from the condensation chamber.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microwave chamber and the condensation chamber are parts of a closed system.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the natural substance is a plant oil.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step b) the microwave irradiation is controlled in such a way that a temperature below 100°C prevails in the microwave chamber.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step b) the biological material is stirred for improved exposure.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microwave chamber has an obliquely arranged, rotatable receiving container for improved exposure of the biological material.

- 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is separated from the microwave chamber by a partition which has an upwardly tapering form and has an airpermeable aperture in the upper region.
- (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the partition is made from plastics material or glass.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein heat is fed into a transition region between the microwave chamber and the condensation chamber to assist convection.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is cooled in the wall region.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber is cooled by water cooling.
- (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the condensation chamber has the form of a vertically oriented cylinder.
- 13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensed natural substance is discharged from the condensation chamber in step e) using gravitational force.
- 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein in step e) water discharged with the natural substance is fed to the microwave chamber.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the discharged water is at least partially separated from the natural substance by an overflow device and is fed to the microwave chamber.

16-31. (Cancelled)